

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN
www.whitchurchonthames.com

MARCH 2004

The 2004 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is *your* opportunity to

- hear what has been happening in our village
- find out what the Parish Council has been doing on your behalf
- put your point of view on any matters of local interest
 - ask questions

So please join us at the Village Hall on Tuesday 6th April. Tea and coffee will be served from 7.30 pm, the meeting will start at 8 pm, and we aim to finish by 9 pm after which there will be an opportunity for an informal chat and a glass of wine.

Geoff Weir
Chairman, Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

Meeting of The Parish Council

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 1st March in the Village Hall. In attendance were the Chairman Councillor Geoff Weir, together with Councillors Vincent Aldridge, Harry Butterworth, Nigel Grove, Matilda Oppenheimer and Kate Thatcher. Also present were the Parish Clerk Janet Holmes, District Councillor Pearl Slatter, County Councillor John Farrow and one member of the public.

The Council noted the process for advertising the vacancy on the Parish Council following the resignation of David Robinson has been completed with no names coming forward. So it was agreed to go ahead with the co-option of a new member. One or two names were suggested, and they will be approached.

Traffic Calming

The Council discussed the progress on the actions agreed at its previous meetings in November and January, and was disappointed by the lack of results so far. It was noted that progress at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), who are the highways authority and who will thus ultimately decide what works will be carried out, has again been hit, this time by the resignation of Mark Bostock who had been acting as Area Traffic Engineer following the earlier resignation of Ashad Khan.

However, a site meeting took place between OCC and the Parish Council at the Ferryboat narrows on Wednesday 3rd March, and the outcome will be reported back at the Annual Parish Meeting on 6th April.

Progress with the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership has also been slower than expected, and they have yet to visit Whitchurch with one of their advisory speed cameras. It is hoped this will happen soon.

County Councillor John Farrow agreed to take up the concerns of the Parish Council and the local community with the appropriate officers in the Highways Department.

Manor Road Play Area

The Council was very pleased to note that work on the new Play Area has been completed. The new items of play equipment have proved a great success, and the grass is growing. Work has also been undertaken to trim back the overhanging trees and to extend the existing fencing to create a safer environment for young children. A contract has been let for the painting of the old metal fencing, and this will be undertaken shortly.

In addition, WotHabs has kindly offered to further enhance the area by carrying out some tidying up, minor landscaping and planting.

As reported last time, some kind of opening event will take place in due course. More details soon...

Ownership of the Play Area and the Village Hall

At present, the Parish Council leases both the Village Hall and the Play Area from the owners, South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC). The lease arrangements for the Hall in particular are complex, as they also involve the Village Hall Management Committee, which is a registered charity. This lease expires in 2005.

There may be an opportunity to transfer the ownership of both the Play Area and the Village Hall from SODC to the Parish Council, and it was agreed to pursue this vigorously. This initiative was strongly supported by District Councillor Pearl Slatter, who agreed to take up with the appropriate officers at SODC.

Allotments Field

The Council recognises that the Allotments Field is an important area for the whole village, and in the past has been happy to seek only a very modest contribution from allotment holders to the rent (about £325 per annum) the Council has to pay to the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG), who own the land.

At its January meeting, following an observation from the District Auditor, the Council decided to put a proposal to the local Allotments Society which would involve the Society progressively increasing its charges to allotment holders. The Council was looking to the Society to match what the Council pays, so that each pays 50% of the annual rent to NSALG.

The Society has rejected this proposal. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Harry Butterworth should seek a meeting with the Allotments Society to resolve this matter in a calm and constructive manner.

Electronic Communication

It was noted that electronic communication (ie email) within the Parish Council, particularly for the Clerk to send out documents to all Councillors, would be beneficial in terms of cost and efficiency. Those Councillors without email will not be disadvantaged, and will continue to receive hard copy communications as now.

It was agreed to use email as much as possible for a trial period, involving not only documents which exist in digital form but also the scanning of images and the OCR-scanning of non-digital documents.

Following the trial period the Council will agree on how electronic communication can best be used for its purposes, and identify which types of communication are best done through hard copy.

Planning

New Applications

The following planning applications were discussed, with the Parish Council's comments in bold:

P93/EO982	10 Hillside (discussed between meetings)	
	Pitched roof to replace flat roof at rear	NO STRONG VIEWS
P93/SO121RM	Primrose Hill, Hardwick Road	
	Extension in compliance with reserved matters	NO STRONG VIEWS
P04/EO213	Rivendell	
	Demolition of garage building and erection of new garage and workshop (<i>Councillor Thatcher left the room for this item</i>)	NO STRONG VIEWS

Decision Notices

The following decision notices have been received from South Oxfordshire District Council:

P93/EO982	10 Hillside	GRANTED
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Finance

The following cheques were agreed for payment. The Clerk, for salary and expenses. Geoff Weir, for reimbursement of payment to UK2 for website hosting and domain registration, www.whitchurchonthames.com. Russell Leisure Ltd, for supply and installation of new fencing. CPRE, for annual subscription. Data Protection Registrar, for registration. Stuart Harris, tree works at Play Area. Sarah Butterworth, for Bulletin Editor's expenses. Ridgeway Press, for Bulletin printing. N. Elsome, for painting railings at Play Area (subject to inspection on completion).

Next Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7.30 for 8 pm on Tuesday 6th April at Whitchurch Village Hall.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8 pm on Monday 10th May at Whitchurch Village Hall. Residents are most welcome to attend this meeting, and to address the Council on any matter of concern to them. An agenda will be posted on the Parish Council Noticeboard opposite The Greyhound the week before the meeting.

Geoff Weir

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

Our March promotion is "Did You Miss This on TV?" when there will be a three for two offer on videos and DVDs which are TV tie-ins. This applies to both adult and junior stock.

Looking forward to Easter, the library will be closed from Friday 9th to Monday 12th inclusive, but extra time will be allowed for the return of books and tapes.

REPORT FROM SODC MEMBERS

The good news is that the District Council's share of the Council Tax has been set at 2.6% which is the lowest in Oxfordshire. We are working with Thames Valley Police to achieve eight Community Wardens as all out research shows the fear of crime is of great concern to residents. Henley and Wallingford will have CCTV by the summer of this year.

Litter is a huge problem and we would appreciate everyone's help in keeping your area clear. The Council has kits to help you do a village clear up – simply contact the Public Amenities team on Telephone number 01491 823456. We also need to recycle as much as possible so that we can reach our government targets and reduce landfill. Do you need another green box or composter? Please let us know.

The Council has just completed an inspection by the Audit Commission for which the results will be known in June. We both feel confident that this Council will get a good result.

Next report will be for the Annual Meeting which will be full details of the work of the Council.

Ann Ducker and Pearl Slatter

COMMUNITY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

The Council has been reviewing the Community Waste Service that it provides to residents in the district, looking at how it could be improved to meet the needs of residents and collect garden waste separately so that it can be recycled. As a result the service has been changed from June 1st 2003.

In the future there will be a weekly service, as follows:-

THURSDAY MORNINGS 8.00 TILL 11.00 AM IN GORING

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS 12.00 TILL 3.00 IN WOODCOTE.

There will be 2 vehicles provided one for household waste and one for garden refuse between April and October. There will only be one vehicle between November and March.

Following the Recycling Story...

In Oxfordshire, residents throw out over 300,000 tonnes of rubbish every year, a massive 470kg for every person!

In South Oxfordshire we currently recycle only 23% of our rubbish, the rest is buried in large landfill sites, which have devastating effects on our environment. As the rubbish rots in the landfill, it produces harmful gases (which contribute to global warming) and toxic liquids called leachates, which can have disastrous effects on habitats and wildlife if it reaches waterways.

But also by burying our rubbish we are wasting our limited natural resources, if we recycle as much as we can, it will mean fewer resources are used and less waste will be buried as landfill.

In South Oxfordshire, the Council provide a kerbside recycling scheme for the collection of paper, plastics, cardboard, tins and cans. Recyclables in the green boxes are collected weekly (by a separate vehicle to the refuse), to be sorted and recycled.

So what happens to the recyclable materials after they are collected from the kerbside...?

Once a recycling vehicle is full of materials from the green boxes, the load is dropped at a bulking depot in Ewelme. All the materials for recycling are packed into a larger vehicle before being taken away to be sorted.

The materials are bulked up because it saves energy and pollution. The bulking process means fewer vehicles and fewer journeys to the next stage of the process, at the materials recovery facility, which is where the materials are separated and sorted.

The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) can separate paper, cardboard, plastic, tins and cans by using a series of conveyors, a trommel (similar to a large rotating drum), magnets and eddy current. The MRF can sort around 50,000 tonnes of rubbish every year!

The materials are first unloaded and fed onto conveyor belts which travel up to the trommel, which is over 15 metres long! The trommel has different size holes for the various materials to fall through. The cans and tins which fall through the holes and are taken by conveyor belt past a large magnet. The magnet and eddy current separate the steel cans from the aluminium cans.

Card, paper and plastics fall through different holes in the trommel and are carried by another conveyor belt to a picking station. At the picking station a team of hand sorters

pick out the plastics which are then separated into their different type. They also pick out the paper and card.

Once the materials have been separated and sorted they are packed and compressed into bales. The baled materials are then sold on to reprocessors to make new products.

Paper taken to a paper mill, which turns old paper into new paper and cardboard, is recycled to make the filling of corrugated cardboard. Plastic collected from recycling boxes is used to make pipes for gas and water mains and steel cans are made into steel wire and aluminium cans are recycled back into cans again.

Recycling a material like aluminium to make new cans uses 95% less energy than when starting from scratch. It also produces less pollution.

Lots of products can be made from recycled materials, plastic bottles can be recycled to make fleece jackets or new plastic packaging. Paper can be recycled to make toilet roll or writing paper.

It is important to keep the recycling cycle going. Buy recycled products from the supermarket or shops and recycle them once you have finished with them. The products will then be made into new items and the cycle continues. Look out for recycled goods or packaging next time you go shopping and make a difference!

Remember if you haven't got your free green box yet or would like another one, please contact Public Amenities on 01491 823416 or email public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk

Goring Heath Parish Charity

What ever you do -- DON'T forget the date of the

Spring Gardening Show

SATURDAY APRIL 3rd to be held in Goring Heath Parish Hall.

Schedules are available from Theresa Elsome 9842056

Watch this space in the next edition of the Bulletin for information

about the forthcoming productions to be staged in

GORING HEATH PARISH HALL

WoT-HABS

GARDEN POND SURVEY

Some of you may remember reading in the July bulletin last year about an Oxfordshire reptile and amphibian survey. WoT-Habs is setting up a small local survey focused on garden ponds as this seems a good way of contributing to the wider, altogether hugely ambitious Oxfordshire survey. Of course, the success of this depends on your willingness to tell us if you have a pond and roughly how long, wide and deep (at deepest) shallow (at shallowest) it is, as well as, later, what you see. Our initial form is very basic:

Name _____ Address _____
My garden pond is approximately
length:.....width:.....
depth (shallowest).....depth (deepest).....

Rather than tear or cut your bulletin copy you could write the relevant details on a sheet of paper, with your name and address, so a) we can map the location of your pond and b) we can, in due course, give you a recording form to enable you to record basic details of creatures seen in or visiting the pond.

You could post the information to me at 1 Swanston Field, RG8 7HP, email me, gill_goodwin@yahoo.co.uk, or telephone (see below) and please leave a message if you get no answer. WoT Habs would greatly appreciate your involvement in this and we hope that it is something you will enjoy doing and we will all learn from. We are also seeking to make contact with willing participants through letters taken home by the school pupils, so you may already have received a form from your child/children. When it comes to recording species seen we will provide backup information to help with identification if you need it. None of us are experts, but some of you may be. We are pleased to receive advice and suggestions. Our next meeting which is our AGM starts at 8.00 p.m. Monday 15th March at Boze Down Vineyard. All are welcome. You will find more information about us on the village website: www.whitchurchonthames.com

Gill Goodwin (0118 9842934)

THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

Our first event of the year is usually in the Spring. This year, however, I thought it would be auspicious to arrange something on the 40th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Society's Committee on 30th January 1964. And what an excellent event it was. Graham Morfey, ably assisted by his wife Margaret, presented a display of photographs and films taken during their voyage across the Pacific from Panama to New Zealand in their relatively modest yacht – there was only one other person on board. We saw the immensity of the Panama canal; the swell of the open sea; a Mayday rescue operation in mid-ocean; and a pictorial gazetteer of Polynesian islands each with its own memorable character. A truly impressive presentation.

The Village Hall audience was more numerous than any I can recall at previous meetings and was most appreciative of the evening's entertainment. Amongst the audience was Peter Wakely, the only member of the original Committee still in the village.

Future Events

The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 22nd April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Afterwards, Nick Brazil will give a progress report on the Village maze.

Nigel Grove, Chairman

Donations and Grants from the Parish Council

Following a question at the Annual Parish Meeting last year, the Parish Council set out the criteria it would use when deciding whether or not to make awards etc to local and other groups asking for financial support. These guidelines were published in last July's Bulletin and are as follows:

1. a; Applicants must operate or provide services of a mainly voluntary nature within the Parish Boundary (it is appreciated that some organisations have paid staff for which they must raise funds).
- b; Applicants must make some contribution to the artistic, cultural, educational, community or charitable activities of the Parish.
2. Applicants must provide financial information about their organisation i.e. a copy of the latest annual accounts, state the purpose for which the grant will be used and demonstrate their need for a grant.
3. Grants can be provided for either revenue or capital purposes for "one-off" type organisations.
4. Grants are not made to private individuals.
5. Grants once given cannot be guaranteed on an annual basis.

6. A description must be provided of the proposed scheme for which the funds will be used.

The Council continues to receive requests from many worthwhile causes which fall outside the above criteria eg Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, Reading Samaritans, Readibus, Victim Support. These request are currently turned down. On the one hand there is the argument that charitable giving is up to the individual, and the Parish Council should not be giving away your Council Tax to charitable and similar organisations. On the other hand there is the argument that charities rely on bodies such as Parish Councils for financial support, and that awarding grants totaling, say, £200 per annum would represent less than 2% of Parish Council expenditure.

Before deciding whether or not to extend its guidelines for awarding grants etc, the Parish Council will be seeking views at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 6th April.

Geoff Weir

VILLAGE FETE –

Saturday September 4th 2004

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help to get the Fete running again this year. The first meeting will be at The Little House in the High Street at 8pm on Monday 22nd March and all are more than welcome so if you are able to give any help or support to the Fete, I look forward to seeing you. For those who would like to run a stall, please put the date in you diary and I will be in touch soon.

Kate Thatcher 0118 984 4656

**Don't Miss Out on
Council Tax or Housing
Benefit**



Did you know?

- **More than 1.4 million pensioners are losing out on Council Tax Benefit**
- **Up to 860,000 households are failing to claim £960 million in Housing Benefit.**
- **Up to 2 million households are failing to claim £860 million in Council Tax Benefit.**

For further information please contact Benefits on **01491 823579** or e-mail benefitssodcuk@liberata.com . Alternatively write to:

South Oxfordshire District Council, Benefits Service
Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8NX

www.southoxon.gov.uk



Learning Through Play

Over the next half term our children will be looking at "changes", new life (Mothers Day), new life (Easter) and new life in the garden. With Spring on its way there is plenty of new life around for us all to learn about.

If you would like more information about our Pre-School please call 0118 9844516 and speak to Helen.

**Whitchurch on Thames Cricket Club
Cape Town and the Garden Route Tour of South Africa
23 October - 8 Nov 2003**

The past couple of years have seen a resurgence of the Whitchurch Cricket team, with the Saturday side in particular benefiting from the influx of a number of new players. So it was on the back of this up swell in interest that the Cricket Club decided to undertake a 15 day tour to South Africa in November 2003. The touring party was made up of cricketers, wives, kids and girlfriends. We landed in Cape Town and stayed at the Victoria and Albert waterfront, a complex of shopping centres and quayside restaurants and bars. The first couple of days were spent acclimatising to our very convivial surroundings, with a few of the touring party availing of the opportunity to climb the iconic table mount, visit the penguins and get blown away by the winds at Cape Point or touring the nearby wine regions. However the more serious sportsmen amongst us decided to keep our competitive edges sharpened with a few Banana Daiquiris or Rum and Cokes on the Quayside, while watching the yachts drift in and out.

After a few days of these intensive labours we were obliged to regroup to undertake the first of our Herculean efforts. This was to be a 20 overs game at Hermanus, a town about 50km outside Cape Town. As the whole touring party gathered in the foyer of the hotel to await our transport to the game, we laughed at the sight of an old clapped out bus which wheezed past and thought of the poor people from the townships that might have to travel in such things. Our hearts sank when we realised that this was our "luxury coach to glide us in maximum comfort and efficiency" to the ground! Two and a half hours later, after we had wheezed and ground our way through the outlying mountains, stopping

periodically to change gear or to let the clutch out (only one of those is a joke!) we arrived at the town of Hermanus. However it was well worth the journey. I don't know how many cricket grounds there are that you can play cricket and whale-watch at the same time. There can't be many, but this was one of them. In fact there were dozens of them. Whales that is. A stones through away, rolling around like they do on a David Attenborough programme, apparently it's a breeding ground and nursery for large parts of the year.

We managed to contrive to lose the game after a good spell of bowling so we all poured back into the luxury coach after a few celebratory drinks with our excellent hosts.

A couple of days later we were off to Constantia, a region of Cape Town round the back of Table Mountain, with the most magnificent views of it. Here we played a team called Claremont (for those of you who know anything about cricket this is Jacques Kallis' home club). Again after a good start with the ball in hand we were less impressive with the bat and managed to slump to our second defeat on tour. A somewhat familiar story for English teams there in recent years. However any regrets were washed away at the B-B-Q that our hosts laid on for us, as we socialised the night away, while watching the stars above Table Mountain.

The next morning saw the touring party up stumps and head up the coast to the next venue at Mossel Bay. This town was a seafood experience, which was good, as our planned game under floodlights in the local stadium was rained off. So after a few days lazing round, golfing and consuming the bounty of the local sea and vineyards we moved on to our next venue. We travelled about 100kms further up the coast to a town called Knysna with some of the touring party making the journey there along the coast by steam train.

This was a beautiful town with loads to do like golfing, horse riding, sailing and cricketing, all of which various members of the party availed themselves of during our 4 days there. And it was here that, believe it or not, we won our first (and only) game on tour. Time and modesty forbids me from extolling my own part in this fabulous victory, but it is suffice to say I did drop 3 catches. But of course a lesser athlete wouldn't even have got close to them Ahem!

So after yet another Barbie laid on by our hosts, and a requisite amount of celebration we moved on to our final location, a trip via the Garden Route for a five day stay in Port Elizabeth. Our hotel overlooked the beach and was on the edge of the boardwalk. Suffice to say a suitable amount of eating, drinking, swimming, shopping, golfing and cricketing took place and with a casino complex only a short walk away, a few of the tourists even managed to prove that age old adage about fools, money and how they rarely remain in intimate contact.

One of the personal highlights of the tour was a game against a team in the local township. These were the areas where, under apartheid, the black people were forced to live, often in very impoverished conditions. Things appear to be improving, slowly, for these people, so it was an education both on and off the field for the touring party. There certainly seemed to be some money going into improving the sports facilities so needless to say, they thrashed us. But it was good to be able to meet some of the people that tourists and tourism usually bypass.

All in all a thoroughly interesting and entertaining time was had by all the touring party. Plans are already afoot for some more domestic and international tours. If you are interested in participating or simply interested in playing cricket in the village then contact the team captains Mike Butt (Sunday team 01189 843216), or Lyn Williams (Saturday team 0118 9265439) or visit our web site www.whitchurchcricket.co.uk

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Our meetings this month started on Wednesday, 3rd March with the third round of our ongoing Print Competition when the set subject was “Symmetry.” The judge for the evening was Gaston Alziary ARPS from Newbury.

Our next meeting, one week later, featured one of the Country’s leading Natural History photographers, Gordon Langsbury FRPS with a presentation entitled “Focus on British Wildlife.”

Wednesday, 17th March sees more “Symmetry”, this time in the third Slide competition which will be commented and judged by Colin Harrison FRPS EFIAP MPAGB from the Oxford Photo Society.

We have a change of course one week later when Edward Everest from Leighton Buzzard shares his interest in fashion and glamour photography with a selection of his work entitled “Ladies Through my Lenses.”

Our last meeting this month (on the 31st) takes a look at Architectural Photography when Dave Fisher from the Princes Risborough Camera Club explains how to get the best pictures of structures and buildings.

Highlights of our April programme include our Natural History competition on the 7th and a Digital Imaging evening looking at Adobe Photoshop on the 28th April.

We meet every Wednesday evening at the Village Hall, Whitchurch-on-Thames starting at 8pm.

If you own a camera and enjoy taking photographs, come along and see us.

Further information and a copy of our full Programme are available on our website: www.whitchurchhillcc.co.uk or from Alan Copeland on (01491) 681471. Copies are also available at Pangbourne or Woodcote Library.

PANGBOURNE SENIOR CITIZENS’ CLUB

The Club meets every Wednesday at Rosewood Hall at 2.30p.m. We would like to encourage new members (age 50+) to come to our meetings. We have varied entertainment – singing, talks, slides, demonstrations, lunches, parties, outing, quizzes, bingo etc. Just come along one afternoon and try. I’m sure you will enjoy the friendly afternoon. The yearly subscription is £4, plus 50p weekly for tea and cake.

Pat Cox, Secretary

PLANT SALE

Sunday 23rd May 2004 from 2.30 – 5.00 pm.
Harcourt Arboretum at Nuneham Courtenay, Oxford.

Free parking.

Sale of plants donated from a wide range of gardens – large and small,
celebrated and less well known.

Teas and second-hand gardening bookstall.

Free horticultural advice from expert gardeners.

And a chance to explore the lovely Arboretum.

The plant sale is being held in aid of Access for All at the Harcourt Arboretum.

Diana Hawkins (Miss)

Tel: (0)1865 735107

LANGTREE NEWS

It has been another busy and eventful half-term at Langtree. On the first day of term teaching began for the first time in our wonderful new purpose-built Maths Building. Appropriately enough, this coincided with the arrival of Helen Hancock, our new Head of Maths. At the same time we were able to re-open the tennis courts after resurfacing work.

In the week immediately prior to half-term a party of over 50 Y10 students enjoyed a week's skiing and snowboarding in Switzerland with four teachers, Mike Markham, Karen Bridges, Mark Vitty and Sarah Darkins. There have also been visits to two History plays, "Doomed Youth" for Y9 and "Hitler on Trial" for Y11. On 28th January 50 Y8 students attended a special educational preview of the film, "School of Rock".

In sport our excellent achievements continue apace. Y9 students Alex Fletcher and Taz Mottram have been selected to represent the County in Cross Country as a result of excellent performances in the County Championships. The U15 boys football team has reached the quarter-final of the County Cup with Joe Prior scoring 4 goals in two matches.

On 21st January Keith Bartley, the Oxfordshire Director for Learning and Culture, paid us a visit and toured the school. Unfortunately, a planned visit by local MP Boris Johnson had to be postponed due to the bad weather.

We have had some good news from the Department for Education and Skills. An analysis of our GCSE and SATs results shows that we are among the top 25% in terms of adding value. This means that students at Langtree achieve results above the average for students of similar ability.

Recently, we sent out a questionnaire to all parents similar to the one sent out by the Ofsted Inspectors in 2000. The responses were very encouraging both in terms of the number of people who took part and in the positive image parents have of the school.

89% said their children like school; 93% feel their children are making good progress; 89% think behaviour in school is good; and 89% think the teaching is good.

Finally, our bid for Specialist Status in the Performing Arts is gathering momentum. We will be writing the bid shortly after half-term. Meanwhile we are busy fundraising. We have a very active parents association who are organising a range of events. Recently they held a successful Jumble Sale and their next major venture will be a Sponsored Swim at the Oratory School on 1st April. This will be part of a major fundraising day in school which will include a music marathon. The parents' association is also organising an "Auction of Promises" and a "Variety Show" in the summer term.

So far, we have raised £8000 so we still have a long way to go. We are allowed to receive donations from individuals and sponsorship from businesses. We also welcome offers of help with fundraising. The carrot is that if we can raise £50,000 the government will fund us to the tune of an additional £350,000 over the next few years.

Pangbourne and District Tennis Club

The "Ice Breaker" Open Tournament takes place on Sunday 25 April, commencing at 2pm. All members or prospective members are invited to come along and join in. Tea is served in the Sports Pavilion afterwards, so it is a good time to get to know the committee members. If you would like further information, please contact Brian on 9845650. We hope to be running our usual programme of junior tennis coaching during the summer term, starting at the end of April. All previous members will receive information about re-joining, but if you are interested in starting this year, please contact me on 9842581.

We have a shortage of men able to play in team matches, and would also welcome application from anyone interested in league tennis. If you are fifteen or over, and keen to play, please contact Brian who will put you in touch with the appropriate team captain.

Lesley Crimp

CALLING ALL ROADRUNNERS

Benson's first ever 10k Road Race (The hot Cross Bun Run!) is to be held on Sunday 11 April 2004, at 10.30 am. The race will start and finish in Benson and will take in Rokemarsh, Roke and Berrick Salome. So now's the time to send in your entry form and start training. Forms are available from Balfour News and Gary Smith Butchers, High Street Benson, and www.bensonbulletin.com. We also need help with marshalling, time-keeping, giving out drinks and medals etc. So if you can spare a couple of hours then please contact Les on 01491 838585.

Avenue A Ensemble

Presents

A Performance of New Music

On

Saturday 20th March 2004, 7.30pm

Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne College, Berkshire RG8 8LA

The programme includes works by Tim Adnitt, Django Bates, Robert Broadley, Matthew King, Andrew McBirnie, Barak Schmool and Pangbourne College students.

Also featuring the Pangbourne College Junior School Choir

Tickets: Adults £6.00, Students £1.50

Darren Everhart The Music School, Pangbourne College Tel: 0118 976 7442

Avenue A is a 12-piece, UK-based ensemble dedicated to the performance, composition and commissioning of new music. The ensemble was established in 1999 by artistic director Tim Adnitt and musical director Anthony Weeden.

Avenue A performs a dynamic repertoire by some of the most interesting and innovative composers in the UK. The ensemble's programme will appeal to a wide variety of musical sensibilities including contemporary jazz, contemporary classical and others.

South Chiltern Choral Society Easter Concert Saturday 27th March 2004 Requiems of Fauré and Rutter

For their Easter concert this year the South Chiltern Choral Society will be performing two well known and much loved works - the Requiems of **Gabriel Fauré and John Rutter**. Fauré composed his Requiem at the end of the nineteenth century and the choir will be singing from the 1893 version edited by a young John Rutter as part of his doctoral studies. Rutter's own Requiem, written in 1985 and dedicated to his Father who had died the previous year, is often described as his greatest contribution to serious choral music. Rutter himself says that, in writing it, he was influenced and inspired by the example of

Fauré: 'I doubt whether any specific resemblances can be traced, but I am sure that Fauré's Requiem crystallized my thoughts about the kind of Requiem I wanted to write: intimate rather than grandiose, contemplative and lyric rather than dramatic, and ultimately moving towards light rather than darkness – the "lux aeterna" of the closing text'.

The choir, under the baton of Gwyn Arch, will be accompanied by the South Chiltern Orchestra with Ian Westley playing the organ; the soprano soloist is Belinda Evans and the baritone is Tom Lowe.

The concert takes place in the University of Reading's Great Hall, London Road, Reading on **Saturday 27th March at 7.30 p.m.**

Tickets from Michèle Whitehead (telephone 01491 578641) prices are £12 and £8 for under 18s

Concessionary Travel Tokens

This year's concessionary Travel Tokens will be distributed in the village hall on Monday 5th April and Wednesday 28th April between 10.30 am and 12.00 noon. Tokens are now available for both men and women over the age of 60, and I would nbe grateful if new applicants would bring their pension cards or passports with them as proof of eligibility.

If you prefer to apply for a half-fare Bus Pass instead of taking tokens, guidance notes and application forms will also be available at the above times.

For any further information please phone me on 984 5214.

Alison Michael

A CAT CALLED PERCY

We are the proud owners of a Balinese cat (long haired Siamese) who has decided to live wild. We know, thanks to Geoff Weir, that he spends a lot of time in the garden of Wells House and in the area around the bridge and the churchyard. We would be very grateful if anyone else who spots him or feeds him could get in touch, so that we know that he is OK.

James and Kate Thatcher
984 4656

WATER PRESSURE

Recently there have been problems with water pressure. Most reports have been at nuisance level, but others such as a kitchen floor under water have been more serious.

Water for Whitchurch is piped down Whitchurch Hill. Every ten metre drop is another bar in pressure. One way of imagining that is that for one metre of a 15mm pipe, each bar creates a force of 125 kilos trying to split it. By the time it has reached Hartslock Bridleway its pressure is far too high for conventional domestic plumbing. A pressure control valve is fitted just below the bridleway to keep the pressure at our houses to a workable value.

On a couple of occasions this valve has malfunctioned. One of the problems is that the valve is complex, and cannot be serviced by routine call-out crews. I decided to monitor it.

The monitor's sensor is mounted on the incoming water pipe at about 200mm from ground floor level of the Little House. It measures the water pressure every ten minutes. The graphs to date show that the valve works very well indeed. The pressure is maintained at 4.6 bars and rarely deviates by more than 100mbars.

Malfunction may be preceded by pressure fluctuations. It may be impractical to continue indefinitely, but the monitor will be in place for some time. Any erratic behaviour which might herald a problem will be reported.

Harry Butterworth

GORING, WOODCOTE AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club are once again collecting unwanted spectacles which are then graded, cleaned and sent to Third World countries to help people with impaired sight. If you have any spectacles or sunglasses that you no longer use and are willing to donate, please phone us so that we can arrange to collect them to pass on to the Lions Club. All donations will be very gratefully received.

Bob and Alison Michael 984 5214

Rotary Club of Reading

Presents a

BIG BAND CONCERT

Featuring

The Berks Bucks and Oxon Big Band

Plus vocalists

“keeping alive the music of the Big Band era”

in support of

Mercy Ships

“Bringing Hope and Healing..”

and local Rotary Charities

The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel
Pangbourne College

Friday 2nd April 2004 8.00pm

Tickets £10.00 Including Interval refreshments

From Premier Pets 0228 984 2111

Join the Red Cross as a Medical Loan Volunteer



British Red Cross

Caring for people in crisis

We particularly need volunteers for Witney and the Monday morning slot at our depot at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

Can you give a few hours of your time to help care for someone in a crisis? The Red Cross's Medical Loan Service provides short-term loans of wheelchairs and other aids.

“Looking after my mother when she couldn't even stand up was very hard, we just weren't equipped for it. The wheelchair we borrowed from the Red Cross was a godsend.”

Your role would be to demonstrate equipment, deal with customers and enquiries, check and clean equipment when it is returned. Some admin is required to record and register details.

If you enjoy meeting people, are interested in learning about mobility aids and support for people with disabilities, this could be the role for you. Training and travel expenses are provided.

Contact Marian Faulkner on 01235 552660

Out and about on Community Service.....

Working closely with Oxfordshire Social Services and many other important agencies, the Red Cross mini buses are a welcome sight outside care homes and day centres throughout the County.

Driven by volunteers, the minibuses have regular daily runs collecting customers for local day centres and luncheon clubs. It's rewarding work and the morning welcome from a Red Cross driver can launch a happy and fulfilling day to many otherwise lonely and isolated people.

Red Cross needs more drivers to help with this interesting and enjoyable work. Potential volunteers should have reasonably clean car license with their test passed before 1997, together with a free morning, afternoon or full day every week or so.

full training is provided – and anyone interested in learning more should contact



British Red Cross

Caring for people in crisis

David Cook on 01235 552673.

Fire Victim Support – helping families and individuals made homeless by fire or flood.....

Family disaster can strike at any time – but perhaps the effects of fire or flood can be the worst.

The Red Cross Fire Victim Support vehicle, called out by the local Fire Service, will arrive at an incident soon after the Fire Fighters. It carries a wide variety of equipment, including Hot and Cold drinks, clothing for all ages and any item a destitute, homeless family (including their pets) might require. It is warm, friendly and equipped with a phone, shower and toilet and the crew is trained to advise on insurance, social services and local accommodation.

The Red Cross FVS service provides the immediate support necessary for a family traumatised by the loss of their accommodation. Even the family dog will be cared for!

*If you are interested in joining this important service
please telephone Kerry Bunt on 01235 552660*

Oxfordshire News

Training courses for adults with commitments.

6 or 12 week FREE training for parents and carers in groups of 6 can be arranged with the Playbus. Facilities include six laptops with satellite internet access for IT training and a crèche.

Ring Niz Smith on 1865 256809 or email: OXONPLAYBUS@aol.com

Got a bright idea for your village,

For advice on funding, getting help, getting a group together, consulting the community - call Anton Nath on 01865 883488. Or visit www.oxonrcc.org.uk

Also for support for people who want to be active in their community ring Andrew Woodgate or Katherine Semlyen on 01865-251946

FREE CD-ROM OF OXFORDSHIRE PARISH MAPS

Over 30 Oxfordshire village community maps have been made by local residents. A number of copies on CD rom are available free of charge - contact Anton Nath at ORCC on 01865 883488.

GRANTS FOR CHILDREN IN OXFORDSHIRE

The Oxfordshire Children's Fund has recently set up a 'Community Chest' for children's out of school activities, hobbies, or trips. It is for children who cannot access activities or opportunities for whatever reason – cost, lack of local activities, disability, rural isolation, etc. For an application form contact Jacqui Malone at the Children's Fund 01865 256646.

The Local Network Fund runs a parallel grant scheme for community and voluntary groups working with children and young people. For an application pack call 0845 113 0161; for advice on getting funding for children and young people's projects contact David Fisher on 01865 883488.

Community Transport

Anyone who has difficulty getting to the doctors, shops or a friend or relative's house because they cannot use conventional public transport can go to the Oxfordshire CC Website to find out if there is a scheme near them that might be able to help:

<http://www.a2binfo.net/oxfordshire>

Alternatively there is a paper based directory available. For your free copy, please call ORCC on 01865 883488 and ask to speak to Katharine.

FLOODS BOOKLET REMINDER FOR OXFORDSHIRE PUBLIC

A booklet giving advice on how to stay safe and seek help in floods is available at public libraries, through District and City Councils and in some police stations.

For more information contact Oxfordshire County Council's Emergency Planning Officer John Kelly on 01865 815341.

FREE STARTER PACK ON HOW TO SET UP A WASTE ACTION GROUP

A new information pack provides help and advice for waste action groups, which are formed by volunteers who want to reduce waste within their locality.

Call Caroline Lowery on 07793 647190 or 01865 815871
or email Caroline on caroline.lowery@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Maggie's Cancer Information Centre

Maggie's Oxford provides information and emotional support to anyone affected by cancer, be they patients, carers, family or friends. Maggie's runs as a drop in centre open Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4pm.

The centre needs ongoing funding to continue to provide its valuable services, which over 4000 people a year access.

For more information about Maggie's please contact Liz (Centre Manager) or Jessica (Fundraising Coordinator) on 01865 225084, or email jessica.maggies.centre@ed.ac.uk.

Residents should be aware of the 'Party Wall Act 1996', as it affects a large number of properties in the village.

What does the Act do?

It provides a framework for preventing and resolving disputes in relation to party walls, boundary walls and excavations near neighbouring buildings. It is based on some tried and tested provisions of the London Building Acts, which applied in inner London for many decades before the Act came into force.

Anyone intending to carry out work (anywhere in England and Wales) of the kinds described in the Act MUST give Adjoining Owners notice of their intentions.

Where the intended work is to an existing party wall a notice must be given even where the work will not extend beyond the centre line of a party wall.

It is often helpful in understanding the principles of the Act if owners consider themselves joint owners of the whole of a party wall rather than the sole owner of half or part of it.

Adjoining owners can agree with the Building Owner's proposals or reach agreement with the Building Owner on changes in the way the works are to be carried out, and in their timing. Where there is no written consent or agreement, the Act provides for the resolution of 'disputes'.

What does the Act cover?

Various work that is going to be carried out directly to an existing party wall or structure.

New building at or astride the boundary line between properties

Excavation within 3 or 6 meters of a neighbouring building(s) or structure(s), depending on the depth of the hole or proposed foundations

Copies of the explanatory booklet can be obtained from ODPM Free Literature, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorks. LS23 7NB or on ODPM Website www.safety.odpm.gov.uk/bregs/walls.htm Tel 0870 1226236

DIALABILITY

Dialability is an independent, voluntary organisation based at her Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust. It gives free, impartial and confidential information about easier living to anyone of any age.

There is a helpline, to answer queries, and an area where products can be tried out.

All products are designed to make life easier for whatever reason, handicap, disability from accident or just old age. If you need help they can supply it or point you in the right direction.

The range covers Kitchen, - gadgets, crockery and cutlery designs

Bathroom – bath lifts, flush-fit showers, raised toilet seats, grab rails

Living Room - recliner and high seat chairs, cushions and stair lifts

Mobility- range of walking equipment

Bedroom- ideas to help with dressing, get in or out of bed,

commodes.

I have some leaflets if anyone wants further information.....*ED*

Another Walk around The White Lion

This is a shortened version of a favourite walk of mine and is particularly pleasing in springtime when the daffodils and the lambs are out. It is based on The White Lion at Cray's Pond where I am sure they will not mind you parking if you are going to eat and/or drink there after your walk -remember that they are not normally open on Mondays (except on Bank Holidays).

On this occasion go back to the crossroads, turn right, and walk down the pavement towards Goring with great care. Stay on the right hand side of that road until you reach a bridleway on your right (you will see a direction sign to 'Little Heath'). I believe that this is an ancient bridleway that gave access to the Icknield Way below. Turn down it and enjoy the drop to Elvendon Road and the sudden picture of Elvendon Priory nestling in the valley below you.

Turn left onto the road (Elvendon Road) and almost immediately right up a chalk path that leads uphill below a hedge and alongside the nearby field. When you crest the rise the path reaches a crossroad (of paths). Have a rest and admire the views of this lovely valley and the Priory which is built on the site of a medieval priory on land then in the ownership of Goring Priory. Pevsner says that Elvendon Priory has fifteenth century remains (Goring Priory was built on the site of the present village church).

Now cross over the stile on your left and head diagonally down to your right to a stile at the bottom of the steep slope. Take care if you have a dog with you, there may be sheep in the field. Cross over this stile and to your right there is another one on the opposite side of the road. Cross over and head up the narrow path to meet the broad metalled farm road and to enter the woodland (which is strewn with daffodils in the spring); continue until you emerge at Park Farm by the side of the main road to Goring. Cross over the road with extreme care and turn right onto the high level footpath opposite. Follow this path (do not wander onto the road) until you reach a bridle path on your left, turn left onto it and then follow it round keeping *left* all the way. At one point the path appears to split into three, two of these go uphill but your path is the left hand and less obvious one (follow the left hand hedgerow) until it enters through a horse gate and crosses the charming setting of Bottom Farm. Keep on this bridle path up through Blackbird's Bottom until you reach the road leading to Cray's Pond.

Cross over the road with care to find a footpath opposite (slightly to your left) that takes you diagonally across the field to reach the road to Goring Heath. Turn left and follow this road (again with extreme care) to the crossroads at Cray's Pond and your parked car and your well-earned meal and drink.

Eric Hartley

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN will be published in May 2004.

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**

sarah@pongo.freeseve.co.uk or on disc.

Formats can be Word (.doc) or text (.txt or .rtf) or PagePlus (.ppp), or Acrobat(pdf).

Other formats by arrangement

Alternatively you can send hard copy to the Editor:

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Berkshire RG8 7EX (0118 984 2922)

no later than Wednesday 12th MAY 2004 .